

The LARC Journal HI - Q

Volume 61

October 1995

Issue 608



CLUB REPEATERS

VE3TBR

Phone: 807-767-7661

Listen: 146.820 MHz

Txmit: 146.220 MHz

VE3YQT

Phone: 807-767-5492

Listen: 147.060 MHz

Txmit: 146.460 MHz

WEEKLY BREAKFASTS

Saturdays 9:30 a.m.
Blue Parrot Restaurant
376 Lisgar Street
(Off Memorial Av.)

2m MINI-NET
Mondays 7:00 p.m.
VE3YQT repeater.

NEXT MEETING



7:00 p.m. Room 214
McIntyre Building
Confederation College

SHORTWAVES

Included in this issue is a survey to find out which LARC members have the computer equipment needed to access the graphic version of *HI-Q*. I also want to find out which operating systems, programs and hardware is used by the majority of computer users. So, please take the time and fill out the survey form and either mail it to the editor at the LARC mailing address or bring it to the October club meeting. If you have ONLINE NOW, the Mailbox or VE3TKA's BBS access you can send me your survey answers electronically.

Len, VA3LEB has kindly consented to upload the graphic version of *HI-Q* onto the Internet. Gary Elder who runs his own free BBS in town is willing to take it as well. I have uploaded the last three months to ONLINE NOW in the Community Events message area. So, if you have access to this BBS you can start playing with the graphic files.

Also, would other clubs, who receive this newsletter, please fill out the survey as well. If we can get a computer exchange system going that would be great.

If any club members have any ideas or advice regarding this matter please drop me a line. I don't want to make the computer version too overly complicated for the next editor.

LATE RURAL MAIL

I understand that rural addresses didn't get *HI-Q* on time. It was mailed out on August 25th. If you don't get *HI-Q* by the end of the first week of the month, contact your

mail depot or handler and find out what the problem is. We are paying Canada Post enough as it is. The graphic version of *HI-Q* would solve the problem of timely delivery.

COMPUTER ONE HUMAN ZERO

After upgrading my 386 motherboard with 4 Megs of RAM to a 486 with 8 Megs, I couldn't leave well enough alone and decided to overhaul the harddrive. The short story is that I lost all my desktop templates and had to restore 150 Megs worth of data and programs, which I did in 36 consecutive hours without sleep. This issue of *HI-Q* had to be reconstructed from scratch hurriedly put together to make the deadline. If any of you use these new powerhouse machines, have Norton Utilities handy (on a diskette!), a boot DOS disk with support files. And make backups, backups and more backups of irreplaceable files.

Remember, please do the survey and get it to me by whatever means you can—Ed.

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Founding President

P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, VE3FW
1881-1972

In honour of the memory of our founding president, Mr. P.J. (Pat) O'Shea, the club callsign is VE3FW.

Senate

Bill Roberts, VE3ARN
Keith Fiske, VE3JQ
Bert Lambert, VE3BKY
Ray Greer, VE3CH
Hugh Elliott, VE3EDW
Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ

Executive Board

President: Terry Stewardson, VE3TKA 577-9439
Vice Pres: Ed Bauman, VE3SNW 622-1216
Secretary: Norm Bell, VE3XRC 577-9316
Treasurer: "Skip" Wright, VE3BBS 767-2307
Directors: Ian Mellis, VA3RIM 577-1628
Dave Horne, VA3DVE 344-9325
Don Bel, VA3DPB 473-5482
John Watson, VE3GTX 683-3199
Mem. Sec: John Watson, VE3GTX 683-3199
Past Pres: Mark Vukovich, VE3VUK 345-5856
HI-Q Ed: Robert Mazur, VA3ROM 344-7731

Voyageur Award

The LARC, in cooperation with the City of Thunder Bay, sponsors the *Thunder Bay Voyageur Award*. Anyone working or monitoring five Thunder Bay amateur stations qualifies. The award is an attractive 8.5" x 11" parchment scroll. Send your log copy with callsigns, dates, times, frequencies and \$2.00 to the club address listed below.

Club and Newsletter Information

HI-Q is published by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc. an Ontario registered, non-profit corporation. The opinions expressed or implied in *HI-Q* are those of the author(s). The LARC assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information submitted. Material in *HI-Q* may be copied for non-profit use provided that credit is given to the source(s). Contributions related to amateur radio, especially those articles of interest to northwestern Ontario amateurs are encouraged. Material can be submitted in WordPerfect® format or as a text file or sent via fax to 807-345-2688 or via packet radio to: VA3ROM@VE3TKA.#NON.ON.CAN.NA or voice mail on the VE3TBR repeater to user 159. Send material or dated announcements no later than the 20th of the month in which it is to appear.

To reduce production and distribution costs, advertising at the following per issue rates is accepted: Full-page—\$60.00, 1/2 page—\$40.00, 1/4 page—\$20.00 and 1/8 page—\$15.00. Reduced rates (1/3 off) are available upon receipt of advance payment for 10 issues (one full year). Send your ad copy and cheque (payable to the LARC) to the club address listed below. Advertising in *HI-Q* does not imply an endorsement or recommendation of the product or service by the LARC.

LARC membership fees are set for the year as follows: Regular—\$30.00, Associate—\$20.00, Associate (attending ham classes)—\$80.00, Students (attending school full-time)—\$15.00 and Family—\$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional family member living at the same address. *HI-Q* is sent to all LARC members but only one copy is mailed to each address.

Mailing Address

The club address is: The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc., Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 4A3, Canada.

New Amateur Radio Operator Information

For information on how you can become a licensed amateur radio operator, feel free to contact a member of the Executive Board

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC)

The LARC is a member and active supporter of RAC. Support and protect your hobby by joining today Contact John, VE3GTX for the details.

(Continued from page 3)

The floor was turned over to the President, VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson.

HI-Q Format: VA3ROM, Bob Mazur has come up with a new idea for the distribution of *HI-Q* to help save on postage and printing costs. For those interested, *HI-Q* can be received electronically once a month. If desired, a hard copy of *HI-Q* will still be available. A survey will be conducted of club members to solicit your choice.

Home Page: VA3LEB, Len Bougie has a "home page" on Fox Net regarding the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. To date, over 1,000 people have visited the club electronically.

Membership List: VE3UA, Jim O'Brien has been going through old club records to build a history of the club. Many of the old records didn't combine names and call signs. Jim would like to see a membership list published in *HI-Q* in the January edition and an update again in June.

VE3TB: it was brought to the attention of the club that the holder of the callsign VE3TB has indicated that he would be willing to give up his callsign and make it available to the club. **Motion:** moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki and seconded by VE3KRH, Steve Robb that the club executive discuss the offer of VE3TB and reply to him in writing. **Carried.**

Adjournment: moved by VE3SNW, Ed Baumann that the meeting be adjourned.

Silent Key

It is with regret that we announce the passing of LARC member Bev Biggs, VE3HMU, from cancer.

Services were held on 26 September 1995. We wish to extend condolences and sympathy to his family and friends. Members of the LARC and friends of Bev's attended the family service.

Moving? HI-Q Submissions?

Send change of address or submissions to:
The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Avenue
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 4A3

Meeting Minutes... by Norm, VE3XRC

Minutes of a meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 214 at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on September 14, 1995.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the President VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson with 36 members and guests in attendance. The meeting started with a round-table of those in attendance introducing themselves. Two new calls were heard, VA3IOU and VA3YME. Congratulations were extended to the two new hams.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held June 8, 1995 were published in detail in the September edition of *HI-Q* and mailed to all members. **Motion:** moved by VE3UA, Jim O'Brien and seconded by VA3GOT, Randy Gottfred that the minutes be accepted as published. **Carried.**

Correspondence

Letter from Confederation College regarding the *Heart of Thunder Bay Race* requesting the assistance of the club in providing communications for the race to be held on September 24th, 1995.

Treasurer's Report

VE3BBS, Skip Wright reported the annual 1994/1995 financial statement as of September 14th, 1995 as follows:

Balance as of June 8, 1995:

\$3,018.29

Income:

\$ 492.97

Expenses:

\$2,639.77

Balance as of September 14, 1995:

\$ 871.49

Motion: moved by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki and seconded by VA3WRL, Wayne Letang that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **Carried.**

President's Report

VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson reported that: VE3YQT went off the air during the summer due to a burnt-out final. A temporary transmitter was installed until the necessary repairs were made. Due to construction of a new tower at the Mount Baldy site, we will be unable to gain access to the hill for a while.

Grand Marais Link: work on the link took a holiday over the summer, but Terry is now back working on the project. The duplexers still need a few minor adjustments.

Old Business

Call Books: VE3BBS, Skip Wright announced that there are still a number of the Northwestern Ontario Amateur Call Books available and these books are now on sale at \$2.00 each. It is planned to produce a new updated call book for Northwestern Ontario in

January 1996. The present call book is dated April 1994.

Irkutsk '95 Visit: VE3UA, Jim O'Brien gave a brief update on the return trip from Thunder Bay to Montreal of our six Russian guests this past summer. On the way back to Montreal, the party stayed in motels in Cochrane and Ottawa. Rather than stay in amateurs homes while in Ottawa, the group decided to stay together in a motel for their last night in Canada and consequently, the Ottawa amateurs came to the motel for the farewell party. Their departure day in Montreal had to be one of the hottest days of the summer and the parking space Pat found at the airport was a long hot walk to the terminal. From all reports, everyone arrived back in Irkutsk safe and sound. The Russians expressed their deep gratitude for a wonderful time in Canada. For VA3GD, Pat Doherty and VE3UA, Jim O'Brien, it was a real eye opener into what was involved in arranging such an international tour. Prior to leaving Thunder Bay, Jim was persuaded by his guests to don his old uniform (which still fits him) and a picture was taken which we here is being widely circulated in the Irkutsk area. A full report of the visit will be published in a future edition of *HI-Q*.

New Business

Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA): VE3BBS, Skip Wright reported that the annual Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air will be held October 21st and 22nd. The Club will be operating VE3FW at the Trout Lake Boy Scout Camp. Operators are invited to come out and operate the club station. VE3FW will be operating Friday night and all day Saturday. Boy Scout Jamboree 1997: VE3XRC, Norm Bell reported that a preliminary meeting of the communications group was held August 21st regarding internal communications. The club is proposing to put amateur radio into the general Jamboree program.

Radio Amateurs Of Canada (RAC): VE3JAB, Bob Bishop brought us up to date on what is happening in RAC. Bob pointed out that there are approximately 20,000 amateurs in Canada with advanced qualifications and 30,000 amateurs with the basic qualifications. He threw out the challenge to those with the basic qualifications to become more involved in both club and national activities. He mentioned the fact that our Russian guests were intrigued at having the opportunity to participate in the Triathlon while in Thunder Bay. Apparently, this opportunity is not afforded to them in their own country. RAC Field Services now has a new Section Manager for Ontario, VE3JJA, Woody Linton from Kenora and a new District Emergency Coordinator for Northwestern Ontario, VE3XRC, Norm Bell. Bob indicated that he will not be seeking another term as RAC Director for Ontario North and now is the time to start thinking of selecting an amateur from this area to nominate as Bob's

replacement. VA3GD, Pat Doherty and Bob will be attending the IARU conference the end of September. Canada will recognize a new "card" which will show amateur's qualifications from other countries in Region 2 of the IARU. VE3SAO, the station located at the 55+ Centre on River Street, with the help of an advanced amateur, could be opened during the evenings if requested. Those under 55 years of age would have to use the back door.

MFJ Antenna Analyzer: VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki reported that a new MFJ 259 antenna analyzer and manual has been donated to the club by an anonymous individual. This unit is for the use of club members and will be kept by VE3AJ. If you require this unit, contact Bill.

Ham Classes: VE3SNW, Ed Baumann stated it was time to start talking about the upcoming ham classes. November 2nd at 7:30 p.m. will be the introductory night and will be held in room 214, McIntyre Building, Confederation College. As Ed is working a new shift schedule, he will be looking for lots of help to teach this year's course.

Election of Officers: the floor was turned over to VE3NPS, Nestor Procup to conduct the annual election of officers for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. He presented the nominating committee report as well as accepted nominations from the floor. The positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary were acclaimed. There were two amateurs nominated for the position of Vice President (VE3SNW and VA3GOT). There were eight amateurs nominated for the four Director positions available (VA3WRL, VE3GTG, VA3EAP, VA3RIM, VA3LEB, VA3DVE, VA3DPB and VE3NHX). Three scrutineers were appointed (VE3XAL, Al Foley, VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki and VE3KRH, Steve Robb). Ballots were passed out to all members present. Following the tabulation of the ballots, a tie breaker was required for the position of Director and the Chairman of the nominating committee, VE3NPS Nestor Procup cast the deciding ballot.

The following are your executive for 1995/1996:

President: VE3TKA
Terry Stewardson
Vice President : VE3SNW Ed Baumann
Secretary: VE3XRC Norm Bell
Treasurer: VE3BBS Skip Wright
Past President: VE3VUK Mark Vukovich
Directors : VE3GTG John Watson
VA3RIM Ian Mellis
VA3DVE Dave Horne
VA3DPB Don Bel

Motion: moved by VA3BRN, Gerry Burney and seconded by VA3TFS, Terry Saunders that the ballots be destroyed. **Carried.**

(Continued on page 2)

The State of Radio Amateurs of Canada

Excerpt from the RAC NEWS BULLETIN 18-95. PACKET EDITION 20 September 1995. Jacques d'Avignon, VE3VIA, editor.

Over the summer, the President of RAC was on a tour of Atlantic Canada. At each stop, Moncton, Halifax and St. John's, VE7RD discussed the state of amateur radio in Canada and more specifically how well RAC is doing in a new world.

Since 1992, there has been an increase of 35% in the number of licensees in Canada. Unfortunately this rapid increase has not translated in a similar increase in the membership of RAC.

RAC is still expected to look after the interests of all the hams in Canada, but does not have the funds necessary to do so. Only 18% of the total Amateur operators in Canada belong to RAC.

This situation may become a very interesting one if Industry Canada "devolves" many of its responsibilities to RAC. Some excerpts of the speech given in Atlantic Canada are food for thought, not only for the present RAC members, but for ALL the ham operators in Canada.

"...Times are changing! The highly competitive global telecommunications economy is flourishing and expanding so rapidly, and it is so complex that one cannot keep up with its demands. Capital investments in the billions of dollars are creating huge markets for the Cellular Radio, Personal Communications Systems, and other wireless technologies, satellite services, and links to the information

highway, all use the radio spectrum. We Amateurs currently use a large chunk of that spectrum. Our bands are extremely valuable assets in a world in which the spectrum is limited and crowded. To top it off another challenge confronts us.

We can no longer count on Government to be our mentor. The days are gone when the officials and inspectors were amateurs themselves and took a special interest in amateur radio. While many officials are helpful, we are essentially on our own now.

Government budgets are cut, department officials and staff are forced to focus on new and increasingly complex spectrum management issues..."

If we want RAC to keep on representing all the Amateur operators in Canada, it will become essential to recruit new members and simultaneously increase the annual fees. In some countries the fees are now over \$100; we are getting a bargain! RAC's revenues are now \$346,000 and the expenses are \$350,000. That is, in my view, tight budgeting! There is no comparison with the ARRL where the budget is in the millions and the size of full time staff is one hundred times greater than the present full time staff at RAC Headquarters.

Mailbox BBS

Arrangements have been made with Mr. Gary Elder, who runs a free BBS call the Mailbox. Members of the LARC, who have an IBM compatible computer and modem, can access his system free of charge. *HI-Q* will be uploaded onto the Mailbox and ONLINE NOW each month. Len, VA3LEB will take *HI-Q* from the Mailbox BBS and put it on his INTERNET home page.

You can call Gary at 577-8325 during the day (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). He will need your name, callsign and address. Gary will provide you with a password and logon instructions if necessary. The BBS telephone number is 475-7405 and operates 24 hours a day.

I would like to thank Gary for his assistance and gracious offer to the members of the LARC. If you have never used a BBS before, now is the time to learn what Cyberspace is all about for free! Gary can answer most of your questions about how to use his BBS. He is also an avid shortwave radio listener and a retired radio electronics engineer. He worked on those multi-kilowatt tube monsters.

I am on the Mailbox and can be sent email by those also on the Mailbox regarding the survey in this month's *HI-Q*.—Ed.

Retired and Loving Every Watt! Gerry Lynstad/VE3KRZ

Belatedly, we wish to announced the retirement of Gerry, VE3KRZ. Gerry was the local area Industry Canada radio inspector. He retired at the end of this May and is enjoying ham radio with all that extra time that he has on his hands.

We all wish him many happy years chasing after stray DX after all those years of chasing after stray RF!

LARC Computer User Survey

1. Do you own a computer and a modem? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
2. What computer bulletin boards (BBS) can you access? (Check all that apply.)
 - ☐ ONLINE NOW
 - ☐ VE3TKA Packet Radio/BBS
 - ☐ Mailbox BBS (Gary Elder's)
 - ☐ INTERNET
 - ☐ Other _____
3. Do you have a fax modem? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
4. Do you have a dedicated fax phone line? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
5. Do you use Windows (any version 3.1 and up)? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
6. Do you use DOS only programs? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
7. What desktop publishing or word processing programs do you use? (Check all that apply.)
 - ☐ Windows Write
 - ☐ Word for Windows
 - ☐ WordPerfect 6 for Windows (or DOS version 6)
 - ☐ Microsoft Publisher
 - ☐ Aldus Pagemaker
 - ☐ Ventura Publisher
 - ☐ Other _____
8. Do you use Graphics Workshop for DOS or Windows? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
9. Do you used any graphics viewers or converters? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
10. Do you have a laser printer? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
11. Do you have a dot matrix or inkjet printer? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
12. Would you be interested in a graphics version of *HI-Q*? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
13. Do you have a high-speed (14.4K baud or faster) modem? **Yes** **No** (Circle one answer.)
14. What is your callsign? _____ (I know, this is the toughest question!)

Please bring to club meeting in October. Or, mail it to the club address Attn: Editor. Or you can send it via email to ONLINE NOW or the Mailbox BBS (Bob Mazur) or VE3TKA Packet Radio BBS (VA3ROM). If you have a fax you can fax it to 345-2688. Please take the time to do this survey and get the results to me in the next few months. Thank you for your time and assistance.—Ed.

Chas. Beverley Biggs, VE3HMU

IN MEMORIUM

On September 22, 1995, Bev Biggs, VE3HMU became a Silent Key, following a valiant battle with cancer. Bev was 72 years of age.

Born in Belleville, Ontario, he spent his early years in Kirkland Lake, but the call to arms in 1941 saw Bev join the Royal Canadian Navy, where he learned the art of Wireless Communications, along with so many others in those dark days. Bev spent his term of duty on both ship and shore stations, utilizing C.W.

Marriage followed in 1947 in old Port Arthur, and then he was finally discharged in 1948. He immediately joined the former Port Arthur Public Utilities, where he spent the next 35 years, retiring in 1982.

During this time, besides raising a family, Bev wrote the Amateur Exam and acquired the Call VE3ECA (Enjoys Consuming Alcohol). Bev was active with the Club on Field Days and during Community Emergency events, particularly when the Club was utilized by the Lakehead Search and Rescue Unit under Les Harris's leadership.

On the air, like so many ex-Navy operators, Bev's fist was a joy to hear. His control of the "bug" was excellent and on A.M. phone his voice could have been used in broadcasting.

From his home on North Court Street, overlooking the harbour, Bev used a Tribander that is still there, along with various wire antennas. His early shack was a closet in the basement, where a Viking II kept it warm. In the mid-sixties, he got on SSB with a National NCX-3 transceiver. Other pieces of gear were acquired in the next few years, including 2-meter FM.

Bev loved the outdoor life, being an excellent canoeist and spending a lot of time in Quetico Park. Photography, golfing and painting were other leisure pastimes. But his garden was probably his greatest joy. Bev won numerous awards for his outstanding green-thumb talents.

For a short while, Bev was QRT and when he went to renew his call, it had been reissued, so he received VE3HMU.

Bev leaves behind two daughters, Laurel Wright and Kathleen Ferrazzo.—Bill Klemacki, VE3AJ